

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T: 08456 404045
F: 020 7421 6855
www.ofsted.gov.uk



9 March 2007

Mr A Brookes
Headteacher
Fulston Manor School
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4EG

Dear Mr Brookes

Ofsted survey on personal finance education (PFE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 1 March to look at work in PFE.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and students, scrutiny of relevant documentation and observation of parts of three lessons. The visit focussed primarily on the school's use of the *ifs* School of Finance courses and qualifications.

The overall effectiveness of PFE is good with some outstanding features.

Achievement and standards

- Students taking the *ifs* courses have a good understanding of personal finance and some have an excellent understanding.
- Examination results show that students achieve very well in the *ifs* qualifications and make good progress in relation to their prior attainment.
- Other students are developing a satisfactory understanding of personal finance education through the provision in the life skills course.
- Students taking the *ifs* qualifications have good attitudes to learning and enjoy their courses.

Quality of teaching and learning

- The quality of teaching and learning on the *ifs* courses is good.
- Students enjoy the discussions that take place in lessons and feel the on-line support material provided for the *ifs* courses is very helpful.
- Students particularly welcome the immediate feedback they receive on their progress through taking the on-line tests and the speed with which they receive their examination results.
- Some students have taken part in a visit to the Bank of England which they enjoyed but in general they feel there is insufficient direct contact with people working in the finance industry or involved in giving financial advice.
- Assessment of students' progress in personal finance education within the life skills course is at an early stage of development.

Quality of curriculum

- Curriculum provision is good.
- By offering courses at foundation, intermediate, certificate and diploma levels the school meets the needs of a wide range of students and provides progression routes.
- Take-up of *ifs* courses is good at Key Stage 4 and in the sixth form. A small number of students take the intermediate course in Year 9.
- The life skills course contains a substantial component of PFE in both Years 10 and 11.
- Some useful resources are being developed with the Co-operative movement to support work in PFE in the life skills course.
- Provision for PFE in the sixth form for those students not taking *ifs* courses is limited.

Leadership and management

- Leadership and management are good.
- The provision for PFE is well supported by the headteacher and senior managers who see it as part of the curriculum entitlement for all students.
- The recent appointment of a member of staff to oversee the development of PFE across the college is helping to strengthen the provision and provide greater coherence.
- There is some repetition in the life skills course for those taking the *ifs* courses.

Inclusion

- Inclusion is good.
- All students receive PFE through the life skills course and *ifs* courses are now available to all students in Year 10 and in the sixth form.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included the need to:

- provide enrichment to the *ifs* courses through greater direct involvement with people working in the financial services industry or who are providing consumer advice
- review the provision for PFE in the life skills course for those taking *ifs* courses
- make greater provision for PFE in the sixth form for those students not taking *ifs* courses.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop PFE in the school.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

David Butler
Her Majesty's Inspector
Subject Adviser for Business and Enterprise Education